

Rear Admiral John C. Acton

Deputy Area Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, Atlantic Area



Rear Admiral Acton, born in Portsmouth, Virginia, is a 1976 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, and was selected for flag rank in 2003.

On active duty, he served in CGC GLACIER, homeported in Long Beach, California, as an ice-qualified Deck Watch Officer and CIC Officer during two Arctic West cruises and a Deep Freeze deployment to Antarctica. Next he served as Commanding Officer, CGC CAPE HENLOPEN, a search and rescue patrol boat in Petersburg, Alaska, and then completed his active duty as a Watch Officer at Vessel Traffic Service, New Orleans.

In the Reserve, Rear Admiral Acton has developed operational, logistics and joint military expertise as the commanding officer of six reserve units: District Eight Rescue Coordination Center (rcc), New Orleans, LA; Medium Endurance Cutter Unit (WMEC), Governors Island, NY; CG Station Sand Key, Clearwater, FL; Group Commander, Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic (MLCA), Norfolk, VA; Port Security Unit 308, Gulfport, MS; and CG Reserve Unit SOUTHCOM, Miami, FL. He also served at Marine Safety Office Tampa, FL.

His Active Duty for Training assignments have included overseas exercises in Turkey, Portugal, and Korea; and evolutions in Germany and Portugal; as well as courses at the Naval War College, the National Defense University, and the Army War College.

Rear Admiral Acton was recalled to active duty for nearly three years subsequent to the September 11th terrorist attacks to serve, initially, as the CG Liaison Officer to the Homeland Security Directorate at U.S. Joint Forces Command and then as the CG Liaison Officer for the stand-up of U.S. Northern Command. He finished his active duty on Secretary Ridge's integration staff (I-Staff) at the Department of Homeland Security. His current reserve billet is Deputy Commander for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, CG Atlantic Area, Portsmouth, Virginia.

In addition to his undergraduate degree, Rear Admiral Acton holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Columbia University. He has also completed post-graduate studies at both Harvard University and Dartmouth College.

Rear Admiral Acton's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, two CG Commendation Medals, two CG Achievement Medals, the Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Arctic and Antarctic Service Medals, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, as well as other team and unit awards.

Rear Admiral Acton and his wife, Jane, have two children. He has nearly twenty years of business experience with Pepsi-Cola, Frito-Lay, BellSouth Mobility, and the America's Cup, as well as senior positions with several start-ups. He is currently with Booz, Allen & Hamilton in Reston, Virginia.